

## **MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2005, at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, Room 140, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Neal called the meeting to order at 1:25 p.m. Introductions of Commissioners, Staff and audience members followed.

### **INSTALLATION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS**

Violet Varona Lukens, Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors, conducted the Swearing in Ceremony for the new Commission Officers: Janet Neal, Chair; Harley Rubenstein, Vice Chair; and Bud Siegel, Treasurer.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2005**

On motion of Commissioner Russell, seconded by Vice Chair Rubenstein, and unanimously carried, the Minutes for the June 15, 2005 meeting were approved.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Linda Block – spoke about proposed legislation pertaining to the Central American Free Trade Agreement and the Guidelines for Vitamin and Mineral Food Supplements developed by Codex Alimentarius which if passed, would prevent the sales of all vitamins and natural supplements without a doctor's prescription.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

#### **Discussion of Appointment of Parliamentarian/Secretary**

Following discussion, on motion of Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Krzyzanowski and unanimously carried, the

Commission approved the appointment of Commissioner Wright as the Parliamentarian of the Commission and staff was instructed to ensure that references to the position have been included in the Bylaws.

Chair Neal also commented that the Commissioners as well as the audience members should actively report to the Commission or the appropriate agency any accessibility infractions they may observe or come upon as they conduct their daily activities.

### **Discussion on 2005 Commissioner Retreat**

Following discussion, Commissioners agreed:

- The Retreat will be held on September 21, 2005 in lieu of a regular Commission meeting, from 10:30-3:30 p.m.
- The site for the Retreat will be Room 140 of the Hall of Administration.
- Commissioners do not wish to hire a facilitator for the retreat. Chair Neal noted that she may know of a person or a public agency that can facilitate the retreat at no charge to the Commission.
- Topics for discussion will include among others, the development of a yearly Commission calendar; review of the current Committee structure; consolidation of similar Committees; and setting goals with deadline dates and developing strategic plans for the future direction of the Commission.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Dedie Ward reported the following:

- Commissioners were invited to attend the Tainter Scholarship Presentation and Reception on July 26, 2005 which will begin with the Board of Supervisors presentation at 9:30, followed by the Reception in the Sybil Brand Commission Office.
- The students who were not selected to receive a scholarship were sent letters and given Certificates of Achievement on behalf of the Commission.

## **DISCUSSION /REVIEW OF COMMISSION COMMITTEE STRUCTURE**

Commissioners agreed to address this topic at the Commissioner Retreat.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Relations**

Commissioner Krzyzanowski reported the following:

- He was a guest on the Community Forum program today; was given a tour of the radio station; and met the station owner. During the program he spoke about the Commission and its activities and outreach efforts, and he also addressed some mental health issues.
- The final colorized version of the Commission brochure has been completed and will be available for distribution at the Wheel Chair Wash sponsored by Familia Unida on July 31<sup>st</sup>. The Commission will also have an exhibitor booth at the event.
- He has been attending the City Commission on Disability meetings and has joined its Advisory Committee on Mental Health.

### **Access Awards Luncheon**

Commissioner Rubenstein reported that the Committee met and selected the recipients for the 2005 Access Award. The awardees are:

#### **1<sup>st</sup> District**

April Thompson, Manager  
Ushers and Ticket Takers  
Los Angeles Dodgers

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> District**

Jim Pries, Executive Director  
Mental Health Advocacy Services

3<sup>rd</sup> District

John Gile, Executive Director  
Project Angel Food

4<sup>th</sup> District

Maria Venegas, Business Partner  
PETCO

Public Service Award

Honorable Beverly O'Neill, Mayor  
City of Long Beach

5<sup>th</sup> District

Cindy Cox Goodfellow  
Aeroplex Business Center

Billy Barty Award

Mary Glicksman, Executive Director  
Computer Access Center

Chairperson's Award

Bally Total Fitness, Culver City

Robert Abell Award

Larry Albers, Handiplate, Inc.

Jane Small Award

Hugh Hallenberg, Advocate

Community at Large Award

Marie Villalobos and Deputy Adam Castro  
L. A. County Sheriff's Department

The luncheon tickets will be \$75 per person and \$600 for a table of 8, and will be held again in the Grand Hall of the Music Center's Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. The Committee is also looking into having vendors participate at the luncheon situated in the downstairs foyer area or Grand Hall of the Music Center.

The Events Committee members are Chair Neal and Commissioners Rubenstein, Jensen, Siegel, Russell, and Weller.

**ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA TO BE PLACED ON A FUTURE AGENDA**

Chair Neal announced that Commissioners wishing to have items placed on the agenda should submit their request to staff the first Friday of the month before the Commission meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Krzyzanowski announced the he would be vacationing in Poland in August and September and that he will observe the accessibility standards of that country and report back to the Commission.

Commissioner Jensen announced that Juan Benitez, one of the Commission's liaisons, passed away over the weekend. The Commission extends its sympathy to the Benitez family and his fellow co workers at the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Chair Neal announced that the Ehlers Danlos National Foundation is holding its National Conference July 21-23, 2005 in Los Angeles.

Larry Albers from Handiplate, Inc. distributed the manual regarding the uniform system for handicapped parking. Additional information can be obtained on the website at [www.handiplate.com](http://www.handiplate.com).

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Present**

Janet Neal, Vice Chair  
Harley Rubenstein, Vice Chair  
Stephen Jensen  
Richard Krzyzanowski  
Carlton L. Russell  
Bernard Siegel  
John B. Troost  
Sheila D. Wright

### **Absent**

Ruth Ann Acosta  
Viola Vivian Corbett  
Ernest T. Hamilton, Jr.  
Michael G. Gureckas  
Irma Resendez  
Wendy Welt

### **Board of Supervisors**

Dedie Ward  
Audra Galang

### **Department Liaisons**

Karla Geller

### **Guests**

Ralph Gottlieb  
Karla Geller  
John Whitbread  
Vernon Hemmingway  
Linda Block  
Jess Segovia  
Cheryl Matlock  
Donald Brandon  
Carl Swirkal